

On December 24, 2002, Applicant filed an information disclosure statement with the U.S. Patent Office ("IDS"). A copy of the IDS as filed is enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. After careful review of our file, Applicant notes that the Examiner did not initial the PTO 1449 form attached to the December 24, 2002 IDS. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner initial the PTO 1449 and send Applicant a copy of same to complete our files.

**REMARKS**

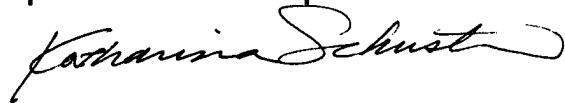
Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review the present amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not affect the merits of the application and is proper subject matter for an Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.312. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of the amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3183.

Respectfully submitted,

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